



## **RIDDLES AS A NATIONAL AND CULTURAL CODE**

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<b>Article history:</b>	<b>Abstract:</b>
<b>Received:</b> 20 <sup>th</sup> January 2025 <b>Accepted:</b> 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	The linguistic and cultural analysis of the connotative meanings in the riddles helps to study the unique imaginations, worldviews and values of each nation through them. Connotative meaning refers to additional emotional, social and cultural meanings associated with a word in addition to its lexical meaning. Linguistic analysis includes the analysis of connotations from the point of view of culture and language units.
<b>Keywords:</b> Etymology, Riddles, English Language, Uzbek Language, Word Origins, Folklore, national code.	

**INTRODUCTION.** Riddles are one of the oldest and most interesting genres of folklore, reflecting the unique worldview, values and cultural heritage of each nation. Folk riddles embody people's social and historical memory, knowledge about the phenomena of nature and everyday life, as well as their own speech art expressed through symbolic images and connotative meanings. The aim of this article is the linguocultural analysis of connotative meanings of riddles, which makes it possible to study the people's way of life, attitude to nature, ancient traditions.

In linguistics, connotative meaning refers to both the primary definition of a word or expression and the additional emotional, social, and cultural nuances it carries. Examining connotative meanings in riddles, in turn, uncovers the linguistic and cultural characteristics of different nations, highlighting both their uniqueness and shared elements. This aspect is particularly useful in the comparative study of national cultural codes as reflected in the riddles of two distinct cultures—the British and the Uzbek—allowing for an analysis of their commonalities and distinctive features. The significance of this research lies in its focus on the interconnection between language and culture through the lens of riddles, illustrating how national identity, cultural values, and folk symbols are embedded within linguistic structures. Furthermore, the article attempts to convey the distinct spiritual world, life philosophy, and traditional perspectives of people as expressed through riddles.

**LITERATURE REVIEW.** This research examines riddles as a form of folk art, emphasizing their role in conveying cultural values and traditions. Scholars such as A. Dundes and V. Propp view riddles not merely as an amusement but as an educational tool that reflects the worldview and ethical norms of a society (Dundes, 1964; Propp, 1984). In Uzbek literature, numerous collections have been dedicated to Uzbek folk riddles,

exploring their cultural and moral dimensions. Researchers like A. Salohiddinov and G. Gulomov have focused on gathering and analyzing Uzbek riddles, underscoring their strong connection to the daily lives of the people (Salohiddinov, 1995; Gulomov, 2000). Additionally, comparative studies have investigated how riddles vary across cultures in terms of connotative meanings. For example, G. Milner's research on riddle comparisons examined the symbolic and connotative differences between riddles from British and Polynesian traditions (Milner, 1971).

**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY.** The research will begin with the collection of riddles from various sources, including oral traditions, written literature, and modern media. This compilation should encompass riddles from different cultural layers, which will then be categorized based on themes such as nature, animals, daily life, and cultural values. Such classification enables a structured analysis of culturally significant topics. A key characteristic of riddles is their dual-layered meaning: the explicit (denotative) and the implicit or symbolic (connotative) meanings. Investigating connotative meanings helps uncover these deeper layers. Literal and Connotative Meaning: Each riddle will be examined both for its direct meaning and its underlying connotations. For instance, the term "bird" may symbolize freedom and lightness, which are significant in certain cultures. The symbols and metaphors used in riddles often reflect cultural elements, with natural elements or animals serving as traditional symbols representing values or beliefs. This analysis will focus on the literal meanings of riddles while also identifying their symbolic and implied interpretations. Cultural symbols, metaphors, and references embedded in riddle language will be examined to understand their broader cultural significance. For example, animals, objects, and natural elements might hold distinct meanings within a



particular culture. Additionally, attention will be given to how riddles evoke specific emotions or associations that are culturally shaped and how they contribute to cognitive processes by stimulating thought within a specific cultural context.

### **ANALYSIS AND RESULTS**

The linguocultural analysis of riddles demonstrates their role as concise vessels of cultural meaning, incorporating both explicit (denotative) and implicit (connotative) layers. This study delves into the symbolic messages embedded within riddles, offering insights into the values, beliefs, and social structures of a given culture.

Key insights from the analysis include:

**Denotative Meaning:** At a surface level, riddles present seemingly straightforward descriptions that can be logically interpreted. However, this literal meaning often acts as a “mask” that conceals deeper cultural significance.

**Connotative Meaning:** The underlying connotations of riddles uncover culturally ingrained values and beliefs that may contrast with their literal meaning. For instance, a riddle mentioning a “tree” might symbolize concepts such as growth, family, stability, or spirituality, depending on the cultural context. This connotative layer enables riddles to impart lessons or ideologies indirectly, enhancing their enigmatic nature and engagement.

**Moral Lessons:** Many riddles subtly convey moral teachings through their connotative meanings. For example, a riddle describing an “empty vessel” making the loudest noise may symbolize the idea that humility is more virtuous than arrogance. By employing simple imagery, riddles communicate profound ethical lessons in a way that is both engaging and memorable.

**Social Hierarchies and Roles:** In certain cultures, riddles mirror and reinforce social structures. The use of metaphors such as a “king” or “queen” may symbolize leadership or protection, subtly affirming hierarchical relationships within a society. Additionally, riddles featuring animals with specific roles—such as worker bees or loyal dogs—often highlight societal expectations regarding duty, loyalty, and community service.

**CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.** The linguocultural analysis of connotative meanings in riddles offers valuable insights into the intricate relationship between language and culture. This analysis shows how riddles function as carriers of a society's values, beliefs, and worldview. Riddles convey cultural values through language, revealing aspects of a community's worldview and societal norms. Language

serves as a key tool for preserving and transmitting cultural knowledge and values. Common elements within riddles, such as animals, plants, or daily objects, hold symbolic meanings that reflect specific cultural beliefs and values. These elements preserve cultural knowledge and are passed down through generations. Riddles play an important social and educational role in society. They serve as tools for passing knowledge, beliefs, and values, while their language reflects these cultural roles.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** To further expand the understanding of connotative meanings in riddles through linguocultural analysis, the following recommendations are offered: Future studies should incorporate a comprehensive exploration of the historical and social contexts surrounding the riddles. This includes examining the time periods when specific riddles originated, the social structures in place, and the predominant beliefs and values of the time. Understanding this background is essential for decoding the nuanced connotations that might otherwise be lost. Conducting comparative studies of riddles from different cultures can highlight both unique and universal themes. This approach can reveal how cultures with varying values, environments, and historical experiences might interpret similar symbols differently, thus enriching the field of cross-cultural linguocultural studies. Investigate how the meanings and symbols within riddles change over generations, especially in response to modernization, globalization, and shifts in social values. Analyzing how younger generations interpret traditional riddles differently, or how certain riddles fall out of usage, can provide insight into cultural adaptability and resilience. Riddles may be understood and interpreted differently across regions and age groups. Examining how these interpretations vary can provide a broader understanding of cultural continuity and change, as well as how different groups within the same culture may prioritize distinct aspects of cultural heritage. Future studies could benefit from examining the specific linguistic features and vocabulary choices in riddles. This would include semantic analysis of word choices, syntactic structures, and the role of linguistic economy (conciseness) in riddle construction. By understanding how language-specific elements contribute to connotative meanings, researchers can gain a clearer picture of how riddles convey cultural concepts uniquely through language.

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